mitments, However, imported stocks would not be released for distribution so long as indigenous stocks are available, as far as possible.

prices of poises

853. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the. Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state;

(a) what are the present retail prices of each type of pulses;

(b) whether the prices of pulses have increased much in the recent past;

(c) what are the reasons for the rise in prices of pulses;

(d) whether Government have taken any measures to bring down the retail prices of pulses in the market, if so, what are the details in this regard and, the results achie-ed so far; and

(e) whether there is any proposal under ' Government's consideration to start distri-bution»of pulses through the Public Distri bution System netwo/k at support price and if so, what are the details in this re gard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD); (a) and (b) A statement showing the retail prices at on 20-4-1987 and the. month end retail priced * from October 1986 of major pulses at selected centres is attached. *[See* appendix CXLH, Annexure "No. 53].

'(c) The rfse in prices is significant only in the case of A'rhar dal and is doe to a depline in production.

(d) The Central Government have pro-mulgated an order called the "Pulses, Edible Oilseeds and Edible Oils (Storage Control). 'Order, 1977" in exercise of the pd-wers under the Essential Commodities Act, 195, 5 tO provide for stock limits for, among fither commodities, pulses for various category of traders as a measure to prevent hoarding and to tnake them available to consumers at reasonable prices. The 'Government is also armed with'the Essential Commodities, (Special Provisions) Act, 1981, and Prevention of BTack Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Government who have been from time to check black marketing and profiteering. Thes$_e$ provisions are enforced by State Governments who have been front time to time asked to enforce these provisions Vigorously.

State GovernmentsjUnion Territories have also been requested to arrange sale of pulses through retail outlets of their cooperative network especially in urba» areas.

(e) No soch proposal is under considera-tion.

D. D. A. Flats in ASIAD Village

854. SHRI J. P. GOYAL; Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT ' be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1294 given, in Rajya Sabha o» 6th March, 1987 and t$_0$ state:

(a) whether before the 3tart *o(* the Suction of the flats in the Asiad Village, the D. D. A. had announced that it would be responsible for any earlier liab'lity in respect of these flats;

(b) if so, what are the. liabilities in respect of these sold-out flats;

(c) whether the D. D. A. has to pay crores of rupees to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi towards taxes; if so, the detaijs thereof; and

(d) fhe reasons for not paying the dues ta the. Municipal Corporation of Delhi and by when the said amount is proposed to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF. URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRl DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) DDA has reported that before the auction of the Asiad flats oft 26th March, 87 it was announced in the auction hall ithat thejallottee is liable to pay Property Tax from the d£te the possession thereof is given to him. Such tax liabilities are to be assessed hy MCD and in-timated to the respective allottees.

(c) and (d) The flats in Asiad Games Villages Complex were constructed by the DDA and were used for a shprt period during Asiad, 82 NAM etc., According to' Bje~ recent decision of Delhi Administraiion the individual allottee of property is

liable to pay the Property Tax from the date of possession thereof. Tn regard to the tax liability for the period between the Asian Gaines aad the date of handing over of possession, a decision 's yet to be taken.

Abolition of contract labour in FCI

855. SHRI SURAI PRASAD; ,
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number 'of contract la bour employed in the storage depots and other departments of Food Corporation of ^Indiai

(b) whether their is any proposal under Government's consideration to abolish the contract labour system in Food Corpora tion of IndiaJand;

(c) ff so, what steps are being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE ' MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): w(a) The foodgrain handling operations in FCI depots vary from season to season and even day to day. Generally these are carried out through service contractus who employ thei$_r$ own labour as per the requirement and periodical work indent. Therefore the $_n$umber of labourers keep on varying from time'to time.

(b) and (c) The question of abolition of contract labour system in food storage depot?, of the FCI is under consideration of the Union Ministry of Labour On the directives of the Supreme Court in a writ Petition filed by the FCI Workers Union.

Tailing over of possession' of foodgrafas front Punjab by FCI

856. *SHRI* PAWAN KUMAR BAN-SAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased. *o state:

(a) what >s the normal period during which the FCI takes over the possession of foodgrains^ purchased on its behalf by the Slate- organisations in Punjab markets;

(b). whether it is... a. fact that any delay in this process beyond three-four days cause many problems, disputes and wastages; and

(c) if so, what -steps have beentakenI to ensure quick transfer of stocksandspeedy movement of food grains from. Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE* MINISTRY OF FOOD AND,, CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). The takeover of food-grains by the Food Corporation of India from the State agencies in Punjab is a continuous process and the quantities taken over depend upon the volume of stocks,, available "storage, movement capacity and other. related factors. The State agen-cies are expected to* procure grains that conform to specifications and maintain them in. good condition. They are reimbursed all reasonable expenses on sto rage ^and'maintenance for «the period the grains procured are held by them. It is the endeavour of the' Food Corporation of India to take over such stocks as expeditiously as possible. The movement of foodgfains from Punjalj, wbiclf "was 9. 15 lakh tonnes in December, 1986, went up to over 12. 00 lakh tonnes in March, 1987. .

Drought relief to Kerala

S57. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Wilt the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:. '

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute drought situation. in Kerala;

<b) whether the Kerala.. State Govern-. meat has submitted any memorandum to the Central Government seeking for an immediate drought relief assistance of Is. -" 138- crores;, and

. (c) if so, the details thereof and Gov-ernment's reaction tberto?